

Hello,

I am writing in response to new plans submitted by Omni Development for the proposed 40B project on Summer Street South Walpole.

Omni has submitted changes to the design which now include two six story buildings. This is so very out of character for South Walpole. Dave Hale cited at the 10/28 Conservation Committee zoom meeting that Walpole already has a six story building. Yes, Walpole does, but it is downtown and was very recently built in the past year.

South Walpole has historical buildings built in the 1800's. It was part of an old stage coach route. Now we have a looming 300 unit housing project in this beautiful setting?

I spoke to Chief Bailey of the Walpole Fire Department. He is under staffed, especially in light of all the new buildings being built in Walpole with already about 600 new housing units and more to come. Yes, he has a ladder truck that can reach to the 6th floor. His worry is fighting a fire inside these huge buildings. He has 8-9 firefighters on every shift with 4 assigned to ambulances. This leaves 4-5 firefighters to cover the ENTIRE town. That surely does not make me comfortable.

The road in and out of the OMNI development is one road with single access to the project off Summer Street immediately adjacent to the railroad tracks. I have never liked this plan due to safety reasons of being right on the train tracks and on busy Summer Street where cars will be entering and exiting in a very busy area across from the post office where a train runs thru up to 16 times a day. (the Foxboro train service is suspended due to Covid starting Nov2 until the spring). A single access road just seems wrong.

I ask for your consideration of these safety factors and for the "not in character of South Walpole" when you vote on this project

Thank you.

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